



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 08 March 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Boston Globe reports Southern New England's two biggest utilities are developing plans to spend potentially \$1 billion constructing 80 to 100 miles of high-voltage electric transmission lines to make the regional power grid more reliable and keep up with steadily growing energy demand. (See item [1](#))
- The Orlando Sentinel reports an airline employee at Orlando International Airport used his security privileges on Monday, March 5, to sneak a duffle bag containing 13 handguns, an assault rifle, and eight pounds of marijuana aboard a Delta flight to San Juan. (See item [19](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 07, Boston Globe* — **Utilities planning new power lines.** Southern New England's two biggest utilities are developing plans to spend potentially \$1 billion constructing 80 to 100 miles of high-voltage electric transmission lines to make the regional power grid more reliable and keep up with steadily growing energy demand. The companies, National Grid USA and Northeast Utilities, are months away from presenting state regulators in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island with any proposed routes, which are almost certain to spawn local concerns over the visual impact of 100-foot-tall power pylons and questions about

possible health effects. New England's power grid comprises nearly 8,000 miles of high-voltage lines that feed local lines. As a system, officials agree, some of the major problems the grid faces are constraints on being able to move electricity among power plants and utility customers in parts of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, and more generally moving electricity from eastern New England to western New England. For years, the Department of Energy and regional electric officials have been warning that New England needs to upgrade its power grid.

Source: http://www.boston.com/business/technology/articles/2007/03/07/utilities_planning_new_power_lines/

2. *March 07, Associated Press* — **Oil prices jump on inventory data.** Oil prices jumped by more than \$1 per barrel Wednesday, March 7, after the U.S. government reported an unexpected drop in crude oil inventories amid the lowest import levels since 2005. Light, sweet crude for April delivery surged \$1.13 to \$61.82 a barrel in midday trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) said crude oil stockpiles last week fell by 4.8 million barrels to 324.2 million barrels. Analysts, on average, had been expecting a rise of 2 million barrels, according to a Dow Jones Newswires survey. The government attributed part of the decline to delays at the Houston Ship Channel, which helped limit overall imports to an average of 8.9 million barrels daily. That's down 650,000 barrels daily from the prior week. Heavy fog in the channel held overall imports to their lowest levels since October 7, 2005, Citigroup Futures Research energy analyst Tim Evans said. Also buoying crude prices was EIA's short-term energy outlook released Tuesday, March 6. The EIA predicted that oil demand will be 2.7 percent higher in the first quarter of 2007 than the same period a year ago, and that natural gas demand will surge 11 percent this year from 2006.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/03/07/AR2007030700372.html>

3. *March 06, Nuclear Regulatory Commission* — **NRC issues annual assessments for nation's nuclear plants.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued annual assessment letters to the nation's 103 operating commercial nuclear power plants. All the plants continue to operate safely. In addition to the annual assessment letters, plants also receive an NRC inspection plan for the coming year. Updated information on plant performance is posted to the NRC Website every quarter. The plants also receive a mid-cycle assessment letter during the year; the next mid-cycle letters will be issued in September. The assessment letters sent to each licensee are available on the NRC Website at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/index.html>

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2007/07-030.html>

4. *March 05, Associated Press* — **China considers building second oil reserve.** China plans to build a second strategic oil reserve in its northwest as it fills the tanks of its first reserve along the east coast, a news report said Tuesday, March 6. China is constructing oil reserves to insulate its economy from possible disruptions in foreign supplies. The United States also operates a similar reserve. Gansu province in the northwest has been tentatively selected as the site of China's new reserve, said the newspaper China Petrochemical News, published by state-owned China Petroleum and Chemical Corp. China's first oil reserve was built last year in four sites along the east coast in the provinces of Liaoning in the north, Shandong on the east coast and Zhejiang in the southeast. The second reserve is to have a total storage capacity of

196 million barrels.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D8NMEHT80.htm>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *March 07, Courier Post (NJ)* — **Hazmat crash closes New Jersey Route 322.** New Jersey Route 322 has reopened after being closed for most of rush hour due to an early morning accident. The highway was closed in both directions between Route 130 and Interstate 295 near Logan because of a crash that sent one person to the hospital and spilled hazardous materials. The crash, involving a tractor-trailer and a car, occurred about 5:13 a.m. EST on Route 322 between Bridgeport Road and the Commodore Barry Bridge. The highway remained closed until about 9 a.m. EST. There were major delays in the area due to the accident.

Source: <http://www.courierpostonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070307/NEWS01/70307003/1005/OPINION>

6. *March 07, Grand Rapids Press (MI)* — **Acid spill prompts lane closure.** The Ottawa County, MI, Hazmat Team used baking soda and a chemical absorber to clean up an acid spill Tuesday, March 6, inside a baby formula factory. The 40-gallon spill at the East Main Street loading dock of Mead Johnson Nutritionals, 725 E. Main St., caused no injuries, although emergency officials said the acid could be hazardous to exposed skin. A worker moving equipment likely bumped a 50-gallon drum filled with the acid, causing a small leak. The spill was confined to a drainage area and did not escape into the city's sewer system. Emergency crews were at the scene for about three hours and blocked off a lane of East Main to clean up the spill.

Source: <http://www.mlive.com/news/grpress/index.ssf?/base/news-8/1173282527207770.xml&coll=6>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *March 07, Aviation Week* — **GAO official cautions Air Force on CSAR-X protest response.** The Air Force risks further delay if it chooses to narrowly focus on the lifecycle costs issue in responding to the protest of its contract award of the combat, search and rescue (CSAR-X) helicopter fleet to Boeing, Government Accountability Office (GAO) General Counsel Michael Golden said in a Wednesday, March 7, interview shortly before GAO released a fuller report of its findings. Air Force leadership has zeroed in on the fact that GAO sustained only one protest point by losing bidders Lockheed Martin and Sikorsky, saying the service would focus in on fixing that issue and move on because it wants its CSAR helicopters as soon as possible.

Golden cautioned that such an approach could lead to further delays. If the other protest points are not addressed, the contract losers still could file more protests, he said.

Source: http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story.jsp?id=news/csa_r0307.xml&headline=GAO%20Official%20Cautions%20USAF%20On%20CSAR-X%20Protest%20Response&channel=defense

8. *March 06, Miami Herald* — **Pentagon to shift funds to pay for more troops.** Senior Pentagon officials said Tuesday, March 6, that they'll likely shift emergency funds from expensive weapons systems to help pay for sending more troops to Iraq and improving medical care for soldiers wounded in the wars there and in Afghanistan. Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England and Adm. Edmund Giambastiani, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, came under fire at a House Budget Committee hearing on the Pentagon's proposed \$623.1 billion budget for fiscal 2008. England said that an emergency spending bill now before Congress could pay for some of the additional troops Bush dispatched to Iraq. The administration is seeking more than \$100 billion in emergency spending for the current fiscal year, most of it for Iraq and Afghanistan. Lawmakers reiterated concerns that the Pentagon is using the supplemental appropriations bills to fund expensive weapons systems with few direct ties to the wars.

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/578/story/33360.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *March 07, SC Magazine* — **Phishing scam uses other phishing scams to steal personal information.** Phishers are using a new bait to lure in victims—other phishing attacks. Researchers at Symantec Security Response said Tuesday, March 6, that emails purportedly from the Anti-Scam Department of the British Secret Intelligence Service were "warning" users that they might be scam victims. The phishing email asks recipients if they're a party to a high-end business transaction, have been told they're lottery winners, have overdue contract funds or promised large sums of money, researcher Eric Chien said. The email then asks recipients to reply with their legal names, countries of residence and contact details, offering free investigative services, according to Chien.

Source: <http://scmagazine.com/us/news/article/642353/phishing-scam-uses-phishing-scams-steal-personal-information/>

10. *March 07, Reuters* — **Islamic charity indicted for money laundering.** A federal grand jury has indicted a now-defunct Islamic charity and five men for illegally transferring funds to Iraq and stealing U.S. government grant money, prosecutors said on Wednesday, March 7. A 33-count indictment unsealed on Wednesday charges the Islamic American Relief Agency, or IARA, headquartered in Columbia, MO, and charity officers and associates with a range of crimes related to money transfers to Iraq. The Islamic charitable organization, formerly known as the Islamic African Relief Agency-USA, was formed in 1985 and closed in October 2004 after the U.S. Treasury Department said it was a global terrorist organization. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Missouri, the group is accused of transferring more than \$1.4 million to Iraq from March 1991 to May 2003 in violation of laws imposing sanctions on Iraq. Prosecutors said the charity also misused grant money obtained through agreements with the U.S. Agency for International Development that was designated for relief projects in Mali, Africa. Five officials of the charity are charged with several counts of money laundering as well as falsely representing the charity's activities and filing misleading tax forms.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN07250223200 70307>

11. *March 06, InformationWeek* — **Massachusetts motor vehicles' office warns of fraudulent Website.** The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is warning of an online scam that charges customers fraudulent fees to conduct RMV business. The malicious sites are set up to closely resemble the official Website, duping users into inputting personal information, along with credit card payments. They also purport to charge users extra for doing business online. When executives at the RMV heard about the fraudulent site, they shut down the official Website while the Massachusetts Information Technology Division and the Attorney General's office investigated, according to a notice on the RMV Website. The investigation reportedly determined that the official RMV site had not been compromised, but that customers had been taken in by the bogus site.

All official RMV online transactions can only be conducted through this Website:

http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=mg2homepage&L=1&L0=Home&sid=mass_gov2

Source: [http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml;jsessi](http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=I442WKO1F5LSQOSNDLOSKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=197800639)

[onid=I442WKO1F5LSQOSNDLOSKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=197800639](http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=I442WKO1F5LSQOSNDLOSKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=197800639)

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

12. *March 07, CNN* — **Scores escape flaming plane wreck.** An Indonesian passenger jet crash landed and burst into flames on Wednesday, March 7, killing 23 people trapped inside. A further 117 people escaped, clambering through burning wreckage to safety, witnesses and officials said. The Garuda Airlines Boeing 737–400 exploded as it appeared to overshoot the runway at Yogyakarta, a city on central Java Island, 300 miles from the capital Jakarta, reports said. Indonesian air investigators arrived in Yogyakarta late Wednesday and will investigate the plane's condition, review the weather pattern and speak with crewmembers in an effort to find out what caused the plane to erupt in flames, CNN's Kathy Quiano in Jakarta reported. Two theories officials are considering: equipment malfunction and human error.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/asiapcf/03/07/indonesia.plane/index.html>

13. *March 07, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO–07–551T: Passenger Vehicle Fuel Economy: Preliminary Observations on Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards (Testimony).** Concerns over national security, environmental stresses, and economic pressures from increased fuel prices have led to the nation's interest in reducing oil consumption. Efforts to reduce oil consumption will need to include the transportation sector. For example, several Members of Congress have introduced bills proposing changes to the corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) program. This program includes mile per gallon standards for light trucks and cars that manufacturers must meet for vehicles sold in this country. This testimony describes (1) recent and proposed changes to CAFE standards; (2) observations about the recent changes, the existing CAFE program, and NHTSA's (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) capabilities to further restructure CAFE standards; and (3) initial observations about how the CAFE program fits in the context of other approaches to reduce oil consumption. The report will be issued in July 2007.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07551thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-551T>

14.

March 07, Newsday (NY) — **JetBlue plane death questioned.** It took twenty-three minutes to get medical attention to a passenger suffering a heart attack on a plane at JFK International Airport, according to Fire Department and Port Authority records. The man died within the hour last Wednesday, February 28, authorities said. JetBlue flight attendants had just begun reading emergency safety instructions at the gate when Lawrence Parker Jr., 46, lurched forward violently in Row 14 and began wheezing. Within moments, Parker was unresponsive, and a flight attendant called the Port Authority requesting an ambulance, passengers said. That call was made at 3:12 p.m. EST. The request for an ambulance was not relayed to the New York Fire Department until 3:19 p.m. and an ambulance did not arrive at the plane until 3:35 p.m., and he was pronounced dead just after 4 p.m. Pasquale DiFulco, a Port Authority spokesperson, said two Port Authority police officers arrived on the plane within six minutes of the initial call. By then, flight attendants and a nurse passenger were performing CPR on Parker.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/longisland/ny-liblue075120852mar07.0.7786201.story?coll=ny-top-headlines>

15. *March 07, Associated Press* — **Man arrested at Detroit airport pleads guilty to cash smuggling.** An Ethiopian-born U.S. citizen detained due to national security concerns has pleaded guilty to currency smuggling charges, immigration and customs officials said. Sisaye Dinssa, 35, of Dallas pleaded guilty Monday, March 5, in U.S. District Court in Detroit to making false statements and bulk cash smuggling. He could face up to five years in prison on each count when sentenced May 2. Dinssa has been jailed since his arrest November 14, after dogs caught the scent of narcotics on \$78,883 in cash he was carrying from a flight to Detroit from Nairobi, Kenya, via Amsterdam. The government's original complaint listed items found on Dinssa's laptop, including suspected child pornography e-mails and articles on nuclear power, using cyanide to commit suicide and the first anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Investigators also recovered a handwritten note that read in part: "We're going to seek justice. This is a powder keg waiting to go off."

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/4609569.html>

16. *March 07, Department of Transportation* — **Train accidents decline for second year in a row.** The number of train accidents declined for the second year in a row and there were fewer highway-rail grade crossing collisions according to preliminary 2006 rail safety data announced on Wednesday, March 7, by Department of Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters. The preliminary statistics released by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) reveal that in 2006 railroads had 402 fewer train accidents nationwide, or a 12.4 percent reduction from 2005, Peters said. And, the data for 2006 also reveal that train accidents caused by human error — the leading cause of all train accidents — declined 20.2 percent, Peters said. FRA Administrator Joseph H. Boardman emphasized that some of the safety gains are attributable to aggressive implementation of the Department's National Rail Safety Action Plan which focuses on the most frequent, highest-risk causes of train accidents; optimizes the use of data to target federal inspection and enforcement resources; and accelerates research initiatives that hold promise to mitigate the greatest potential safety risks.

State-by-state comparison of the data: <http://www.fra.dot.gov/us/press-releases/139>

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fra0907.htm>

17.

March 07, *Newsday* (NY) — NYC counter-terror chief urges stiffer subway protection.

New York City's counterterrorism chief, Deputy New York Police Department Commissioner Richard Falkenrath, said Tuesday, March 6, "The threat to New York City's transit system is not just theoretical." He warned House lawmakers, "There have been 22 bomb threats and 31 intelligence leads related to subway attack plots this year." Despite those threats and a spate of deadly train bombings in London, Madrid and Mumbai, India, Falkenrath, a former White House homeland security official, said the federal government has done little to protect the nation's subway and rail systems. Testifying before the House Homeland Security Committee on a bill that would require a national mass transit strategy and would appropriate \$4 billion to fortify subway and rail systems — including \$100 million to secure six tunnels in New York's Penn Station — Falkenrath praised it as "a step in the right direction." He also criticized a proposal that would pay for training for transit workers but not for law enforcement, noting that the NYPD assigns nearly 2,700 officers daily to secure subways. That force is essential to guard a system with almost 500 entrances and exits, and which has almost five million riders every day, he said.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/newyork/ny-usrail0307.0.1308522.story?coll=ny-main-bigpix>

- 18. March 07, *Government Accountability Office* — GAO-07-583T: Passenger Rail Security: Federal Strategy and Enhanced Coordination Needed to Prioritize and Guide Security Efforts (Testimony).** The four rail attacks in Europe and Asia since 2004, including the most recent in India, highlight the vulnerability of passenger rail and other surface transportation systems to terrorist attack and demonstrate the need for greater focus on securing these systems. This testimony is based primarily on the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) September 2005 passenger rail security report and selected recent program updates. Specifically, it addresses (1) the extent to which the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has assessed the risks facing the U.S. passenger rail system and developed a strategy based on risk assessments for securing all modes of transportation, including passenger rail, and (2) the actions that federal agencies have taken to enhance the security of the U.S. passenger rail system. GAO has previously recommended that the Transportation Security Administration complete risk assessments, develop rail security standards based on best practices, and consider implementing practices used by foreign rail operators. DHS, the Department of Transportation, and Amtrak generally agreed with these recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07583thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-583T>

- 19. March 06, *Orlando Sentinel* (FL) — Man smuggled guns, marijuana on flight from Orlando to Puerto Rico.** An airline employee at Orlando International Airport used his security privileges on Monday, March 5, to sneak a duffle bag containing 13 handguns, an assault rifle and eight pounds of marijuana aboard a Delta flight to San Juan. Puerto Rico Police arrested Thomas Anthony Muñoz, 22, of Kissimmee, and confiscated the weapons after he walked off Delta Airlines flight 933 Monday, March 5. According to ATF agent Marco Carrillo's affidavit, Muñoz used his Comair Airlines identification card to sneak the weapons on board. Muñoz told Carrillo that another employee at the Orlando airport recruited him to smuggle the drugs and guns on board after learning that he was having money problems. Muñoz, 22, has been a Comair employee for three years and worked at the Orlando International Airport, said Kate Marx, a spokesperson for the airline.

Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/orl-airport-bk%2C0%2C7143218.story?coll=orl-home-headlines>

20. *March 06, 9News (CO)* — **Batteries can pose fire risk to planes.** A rash of fires on planes has spurred the government to plan new restrictions on how airline passengers may carry lithium batteries used to power laptop computers and cell phones. The Department of Transportation (DOT), which already bars bulk shipments of some lithium batteries on passenger planes, expects to propose more restrictions later this year, said Bob Richard of the DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. While the agency has no immediate plans to ban the batteries from carry-on luggage, he said, the risks of batteries in airplane cabins are being studied. Restrictions on carrying the batteries in checked items are possible, Richard said. At least nine fires involving lithium batteries have happened on airplanes or in cargo destined for planes since 2005, according to federal safety records. Battery industry representatives acknowledge that new cargo restrictions may be needed. They also have agreed to set voluntary standards on packaging and labeling shipments. But they see no need to bar laptops or other devices on planes.

Source: <http://www.9news.com/money/article.aspx?storyid=65925>

21. *March 06, Reuters* — **Wired Iraqi man triggers scare at Los Angeles airport.** An Iraqi national wearing wires and concealing a magnet inside a body cavity triggered a security scare at Los Angeles International Airport on Tuesday, March 6, but officials said he posed no apparent threat. The man, identified by law enforcement officials as Fadhel al-Maliki, 35, set off an alarm during passenger screening at the airport early on Tuesday morning. Maliki, 35, who lives in Atlantic City, NJ, was preparing to board a US Airways flight from Los Angeles to Philadelphia. The flight left without Maliki but with his luggage aboard. It made an unscheduled landing in Las Vegas, where the plane was thoroughly searched but nothing was found, officials said. Passengers were not evacuated and no flights were disrupted by the incident at Terminal One at Los Angeles airport.

Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/wtMostRead/idUSN0643957420070_306

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

22. *March 07, Bangor Daily News (ME)* — **Poisoning investigated in horses.** State officials said Tuesday, March 6, that they still have no conclusive cause of death for seven horses found dead last month and three euthanized later at a Searsport, ME, farm, but they are looking at accidental poisoning. Animal Welfare Division veterinarian Christine Fraser said Tuesday that a pathologist from the University of Maine in Orono did a necropsy of one of the dead horses, and no cause of death was found. "We are pretty sure it is not an infectious disease," Fraser said. "It is possibly a toxin. We have no proof that this was intentional or accidental." Tests on

the horses' feed and blood tests are pending.

Source: <http://bangordailynews.com/news/t/news.aspx?articleid=147163 &zoneid=500>

23. *March 07, Canadian Press* — **Details on Alberta mad cow case released.** Alberta, Canada's latest case of mad cow disease — the province's ninth, overall — involved a 6½-year-old animal that was born and raised on the same farm where it died. "The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has directed all necessary resources toward the tracing of cattle that may have been exposed to the same feed as the affected animal during the early part of their lives," CFIA said. "The investigation also includes a thorough examination of the formulation, production, transportation and storage of a number of feed sources used on the birth farm at the time." The bull was born in 2000 and died in early February, having been detected as an "animal of interest" through a national farm surveillance program. Provincial and federal tests then confirmed it had bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/topics/news/agriculture/story.html?id=3123958d-3f39-4258-83d5-599da7382a9b&k=55475>

24. *March 06, Fauquier Times-Democrat (VA)* — **Another EHV-1 positive horse found in Virginia.** The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services released news of another Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) positive test, on a horse stabled in Loudoun County. This makes the fifth horse from Virginia to test positive. The latest positive test came from a horse that had been at the Marion duPont Equine Medical Center (EMC) for treatment when the initial index horse carrying EHV-1 was detected at the center. The Loudoun farm was quarantined last week when the horse became ill. It joins nine other quarantined premises in Virginia that have been so designated in an effort to control the spread of the virus from horses that possibly were exposed while at the EMC in the time period when the index horse was at the clinic, but before it was known to be shedding the highly-communicable virus.

EHV-1 information: <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/animals/ehv.shtml>

Source: http://www.timescommunity.com/site/tab2.cfm?newsid=18046568&BRD=2553&PAG=461&dept_id=583968&rft=6

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Food Sector

25. *March 07, Yonhap News (South Korea)* — **South Korea, U.S. make little headway on beef row.** South Korean and U.S. negotiators have made little progress in resolving differences over a row involving Seoul's imports of American beef, an official said Wednesday, March 7. South Korea's Assistant Agriculture Minister Min Dong-seok and his U.S. counterpart, Richard Crowder, were unable to bridge the existing gap at high-level talks held in Washington on Tuesday, March 7, said the official. South Korea maintained that Washington must respect the agreement reached between the two countries in January 2006, which allows only the import of de-boned beef from cattle less than 30 months old, he said. Seoul banned U.S. beef imports from late 2003, when a mad cow case was reported in the U.S. The inability of the two sides to resolve the beef import controversy mirrors the lack of progress made at a technical meeting held in Seoul last month. At that meeting, Seoul said it would continue to examine all beef imports for bone chips, but would not send back entire a shipment if just a few packages contain fragments.

Source: <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/Engnews/20070307/6200000000020070307202412E7.html>

26. *March 07, Los Angeles Times* — **All Los Angeles food workers could face vaccinations.** In response to a series of hepatitis A outbreaks at restaurants and catered events across Los Angeles, county officials said Tuesday, March 6, they might require food-service workers in all 25,000 eateries to be vaccinated for the virus. County supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday to ask health officials to examine the costs and benefits of such a requirement, which also would extend to 300 catering companies and 270 wholesale producers. The proposal comes a week after officials announced that a prep cook at a Wolfgang Puck catering firm was diagnosed with hepatitis A. Health officials issued a warning to 3,500 people who had attended 13 events catered by the company. There have been other incidents of hepatitis A outbreaks over the last two years, including one at the Cafe Pinot eatery in downtown Los Angeles, another involving a Hollywood catering firm and a third that centered on an Olvera Street restaurant. Officials acknowledged that the vaccinations could be a massive undertaking — possibly involving more than 100,000 workers.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/features/health/medicine/la-me-hepatitis7mar07.1.3357653.story?coll=la-health-medicine>

27. *March 06, Enterprise (MA)* — **Federal charges possible in tampering incident.** As the investigation continues into tampering with packaged ice cream at a regional distribution plant in Massachusetts, police said federal charges are possible. Investigators from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration joined local and state police in the investigation after what police described as “foreign objects” were recovered from ice cream at Dari-Farms Inc., the plant that distributes ice cream products bearing several labels. Police declined to identify the “foreign objects” or the affected brand, but did say it was not being shipped for retail distribution in grocery or convenience stores. The investigation began February 12 and continues. The focus is on internal tampering, authorities have said.

Source: <http://enterprise.southofboston.com/articles/2007/03/06/news/news11.txt>

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Water Sector

28. *March 06, Copley News Service* — **Water officials take steps to halt spread of mollusk.** Southern California's largest water supplier drained its 242-mile Colorado River Aqueduct and dispatched a highly trained search party Monday, March 6. The target is a mussel no larger than a dime but capable of causing billions of dollars in damages. Left unchecked, the quagga mussel can clog water pipes, destroy fish habitat and cripple boat motors. “These things can alter an entire ecosystem,” warned David Britton, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist tracking quagga invasions in several Western states. Quagga mussels have infested 22 states, navigated the Mississippi on barges and are believed to have hitched a ride to Lake Mead, AZ, on a pleasure craft shuttled from the Great Lakes. “Lake Mead is so popular we're afraid it will serve as a steppingstone to other places in the West,” Britton said. Lake Mead is a major power and water source for Southern California. The Metropolitan Water District taps Lake Mead for water delivered via the Colorado River. The mussel has been found in Lake Havasu in Arizona, downstream from Mead and a short distance from the Colorado River Aqueduct intake.

California authorities so fear infestation they have initiated rare, mandatory inspections of each boat pulled into the state from the Lake Mead area.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/state/20070306-9999-1n6mu ssels.html>

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Public Health Sector

29. *March 07, Associated Press* — China reports bird flu outbreak at poultry market in Tibet.

Bird flu has struck a poultry market in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, prompting the culling of nearly 7,000 birds, the government and state media said. The outbreak of the deadly H5N1 virus, which began March 1 in Lhasa's Chengguan village, killed 680 chickens and prompted the culling of 6,990 birds, according to a Chinese government report dated Tuesday, March 6. The Beijing Youth Daily reported Wednesday, March 7, that the market has since been shut down and authorities were trying to determine the source of the infection. It was possible that the chicken were infected through contact with migrating wild birds, it said. The government report, submitted by China's Ministry of Agriculture, also gave details of five H5N1 bird flu outbreaks among migratory birds in Tibet and neighboring Qinghai in April and May of last year. The five outbreaks killed 3,648 birds, including bar-headed geese, brown-headed gulls, crows, hawks and other wild birds, it said.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/03/07/asia/AS-GEN-China- Bird-Flu.php>

30. *March 07, Agence France-Presse* — Bird flu hits chicken farms in Vietnam's capital. The H5N1 strain of bird flu was reported in Vietnam's capital Hanoi on Wednesday, March 7, after more than 1,000 young chickens died of the virus, the ministry of agriculture said. About 1,150 chickens aged two to three months died of avian influenza on two farms in Hau village in Hanoi's suburban Dong Anh district. Hanoi's neighboring Ha Tay province, the major supplier of poultry products to the city, reported a bird flu outbreak Tuesday, March 6. In recent weeks, cases of the virus have been detected in the three northern Vietnamese provinces of Hanoi, Hai Duong and Ha Tay, and in southern Vinh Long province.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070307/hl_afp/healthvietnamflu_070307104018

31. *March 06, Agence France-Presse* — Antibiotic-resistant virus kills 'dozens' in Israel hospitals. A bacteria that is resistant to antibiotics has recently led to "dozens of deaths" in large Israeli hospitals, a report on public television said. "The bacteria has been in most of the large hospitals in the country," Galia Rahav, a specialist in infectious diseases at Tel Aviv's Tel Hashomer hospital said. "Of 130 cases, there was a 30 percent death rate in our hospital," she said, adding that there was nothing that could be done to fight the bacteria which is from the klebsiella genus. Klebsiella organisms can lead to a wide range of diseases, notably pneumonia, urinary tract infections, septicemia and soft tissue infections.

Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/news/2007/03/06/070306211309.ezqg19 dr.html>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *March 07, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **New radar tool measures changes in storm intensity.** Hurricane forecasters will be trying out a tool this season that lets them see if a storm is revving up right before it hits land. Researchers at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, CO, and at the Naval Research Laboratory in Monterey, CA, developed the method that uses coastal radar to spot sudden shifts in hurricane intensity. They published their work in the most recent issue of Geophysical Research Letters. Unlike aircraft observations that scope out a storm every few hours, forecasters using the new method can take a reading each time Doppler radar scans a storm, about once every six minutes when a hurricane is in range. The rapid readings tell forecasters whether a storm is getting stronger or losing strength. The program gives forecasters an accurate picture of a storm's winds. From those, they can derive its pressure, the most accurate measure of intensity. Forecasters warn that the method's usefulness depends on the storm's angle of approach and speed.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2007/nat030607.shtm>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

33. *March 07, SC Magazine* — **IRC bot a growing threat to enterprise networks.** A new Internet relay chat (IRC) bot is building an even larger zombie family that could pose a significant threat to enterprise networks, security researchers said Wednesday, March 7. The Nirbot family is based on relatively new code and spreads after receiving instructions from the botmaster inside an IRC channel, said Jose Nazario, of Arbor Networks. The bot attempts to exploit patched vulnerabilities in Symantec anti-virus programs and the Microsoft server service function. More dangerous for enterprises, though, is that the bot preys on password weaknesses in Windows file-sharing networks, researchers said. Once launched, the bot joins the IRC server and can download arbitrary code, unleash DDoS attacks or launch an HTTP or FTP server to browse an infected PC for sensitive files, he said.

Source: <http://scmagazine.com/us/news/article/642351/irc-bot-growing-threat-enterprise-networks/>

34. *March 06, Federal Computer Week* — **VA to control, restrict use of mobile storage devices.** In the next month, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will let employees plug into its network only those mobile storage devices issued by the chief information officer's office. Robert Howard, the department's CIO, said Tuesday, March 6, he will issue only 1G and 2G thumb drives and will not allow anything larger onto the network unless he approves it. The mobile storage devices also must be certified under the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Federal Information Processing Standard 140-2, he added. Besides controlling thumb drives, Howard aims to have a standard configuration for smart phones and personal digital assistants, eliminate unencrypted messages that travel on the VA's network and reduce the number of virtual private networks by the end of fiscal 2007. The department also is relying

more on public-key infrastructure (PKI) and Microsoft's rights management system (RMS) in its Outlook e-mail system to do a better job of securing e-mail and documents.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article97837-03-06-07-Web>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

35. *March 06, Los Angeles Times* — **Wal-Mart fires employee for electronic snooping.**

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said Monday, March 5, it had fired an employee for recording phone calls between its public-relations staff and a newspaper reporter and for intercepting text messages. Wal-Mart said the employee was acting alone. It was the latest incident involving snooping on reporters by employees of companies they cover. In this case, the retailer said an unnamed computer-systems technician was not authorized by the company to seek or obtain the information. The company also said it fired one manager and disciplined another for "failure to carry out their management duties." Wal-Mart said that between September 2006 and January 2007, the technician recorded calls with Michael Barbaro, who writes about Wal-Mart for The New York Times. Over the previous year, The Times was printing stories of the company's personnel policies, based on leaked employee memos. The company said the same employee also intercepted text messages using equipment that searched for key words in messages sent within a several-mile radius of Wal-Mart's Bentonville, AR, headquarters.

Source: http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-spying7mar07.0.3688427_story?coll=la-home-headlines

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General Sector

36. *March 07, Boston Globe* — **Hundreds held in immigration raid.** Hundreds of immigration officers and police descended on a New Bedford, MA, leather goods factory on Tuesday, March 6, charged top officials with employing illegal immigrants, and rounded up 350 workers who could not prove they were in the country legally. The waterfront company, Michael Bianco Inc., was using the illegal immigrants to produce safety vests and backpacks for the U.S. military, officials said. Workers inside the plant described a terrifying scene. At first, several hundred employees, most of them Guatemalan or Salvadoran, were told to remain at their sewing stations as officials reviewed their status. Chaos ensued, as some panicked workers tried to flee. The operation occurred at a time of stepped-up workplace enforcement actions nationally by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, following years of criticism of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's lax execution of immigration laws. At U.S. District

Court in Boston, factory owner Francesco Insolita, 50, and three of his managers were charged with conspiring to encourage or induce illegal immigrants to live in the United States, and conspiring to hire illegal immigrants.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/03/07/350_are_held_in_immigration_raid/

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